

MODULE 2

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this module, the trainee, without the aid of references, will be able to:

1. Describe why safety precautions are of the utmost importance when handling or inspecting ratites.
2. Describe how ratites defend themselves with their feet.
3. Describe how to approach a ratite safely.
4. Describe why pecking may occur and cause serious injury.
5. Describe why the birds' size and running ability can be dangerous.
6. Describe why workers should remain clear of the birds during stunning.
7. Describe why workers should remain at a safe distance from a bird for a period of time immediately after it has been stunned.
8. Describe who is responsible for making all cuts required for the slaughtering, dressing and eviscerating process, including opening of the heart for inspection.
9. Describe the current Agency policy regarding inspection personnel making opening cuts into organs or other tissues during postmortem inspection.
10. List the safety equipment which must be worn and how it must be used.
11. Describe the correct actions to take when potential safety hazards are detected.
12. List any potential safety hazards in your assignment.

MODULE 2

SCRIPT

Introduction

Safety precautions are of the utmost importance when handling or inspecting ratites. These are large powerful birds that can easily injure someone who is not careful. You should not attempt to perform antemortem inspection on birds that are not properly penned or restrained.

Ratite Defensive Behavior

Ostriches defend themselves by striking forward with their feet, making their claws extremely dangerous. A blow from the claw of an ostrich can disembowel a person, so never stand directly in front of these birds. The claws of emus and rheas can also inflict severe cuts. They can strike forward and to the side. If you must get near a ratite, always approach it from the rear -- never from the front.

Ratites peck at anything that attracts their curiosity. Some birds are extremely aggressive and might attempt to inflict injury by pecking. When performing antemortem inspection, remember that ratites have very long necks and can reach out some distance from their pen. Whether ratite pecking is from aggression or just out of curiosity, severe head and facial injuries can occur.

Being flightless birds, ratites escape from danger by running. Given a good start, some ostriches can reach speeds of up to 50 miles per hour. Because of their large

size and running ability, they can be very dangerous to anyone in their path. Do not attempt to enter a pen in which birds are not properly restrained. Also, do not attempt to restrain a loose bird.

Stunning

Ratites must be stunned by plant personnel before slaughter. Stunning is usually accomplished using electrical stunning or a captive bolt. Due to the potential for a fatal accident from the stunning equipment, remain clear of the birds during stunning. Never handle any of the stunning equipment, even when it is not in use.

Immediately after stunning, the birds thrash wildly with their legs. This is especially dangerous to anyone within striking distance of their feet. Remain at a safe distance until all thrashing has stopped. Improperly stunned birds can remain conscious and attempt to escape. This is a very dangerous situation. If this should happen, you should exit to a place of safety immediately.

Opening Cuts

All cuts required for the slaughtering, dressing, and eviscerating processes must be made by establishment employees. This includes opening the heart for inspection. For safety reasons, current Agency policy does not allow inspection personnel, other than the veterinarian, to make opening cuts into

any organs or other tissues during

Safety Equipment

Safety equipment, such as a safety helmet, nonskid boots, hearing protection (when required), etc., must be worn and properly used.

Safety Hazards

Stay alert to potential safety hazards, including both unsafe acts and unsafe conditions.

Examples of unsafe acts include horseplay or careless handling of birds

postmortem inspection.

and equipment (i.e., knives, stunning equipment, water hoses, etc.).

Unsafe conditions include low overhead structures, low hanging equipment (including shackles), exposed hot water pipes, open floor drains, improperly grounded electrical equipment, slick floors, stairs without handrails, etc.

If you identify a potential safety hazard, notify plant management so appropriate corrective action can be taken. Always take necessary precautions when potential safety hazards are identified.

MODULE 2

SUPPLEMENT

Using the script as the reference, complete the following:

1. _____ precautions are of the utmost importance when handling or inspecting ratites.
2. Ostriches defend themselves by striking _____ with their feet, making their _____ extremely dangerous.
3. Emus and rheas may strike forward and to the _____ .
4. If you must get near a ratite, always approach it from the _____ , _____ from the front.
5. Whether _____ is from aggression or curiosity, severe injuries can occur.
6. Because of their _____ size and _____ ability, they can be very dangerous to anyone in their path.
7. Due to the potential for a _____ accident from the use of the stunning equipment, remain _____ of the birds during stunning.
8. Immediately after stunning, the birds will _____ wildly with their legs. Remain at a _____ distance until all thrashing has stopped.
9. All cuts required for the slaughtering, dressing and eviscerating processes including opening of the _____ for inspection is the responsibility of _____ employees.

10. For safety reasons, current policy does _____ allow inspection personnel, other than the veterinarian, to make any opening cuts into any organs or tissues during postmortem inspection.
11. Safety equipment such as a safety helmet, nonskid boots, hearing protection (when required), etc. must be _____ and _____ used.
12. Stay alert to potential safety hazards including both unsafe _____ and unsafe _____ .
13. List any potential safety hazards in your assignment.